determination tests and abortion services may also be proving to be catalyst in the process, which may be further stimulated by pre-conception sex selection facilities.

(c) The steps taken to prevent the, practice of female foeticide include strengthening the implementation of the PC&PNDT Act in the country by constituting National Support and Monitoring Cell (NSMC); National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) consisting of representatives from Ministry of Women and Child Development, National Commission for Women, Ministry of Law and NGOs; sensitization through Members of Parliament; funding to the State under Reproductive and Child Health - II; inclusion of the issue under NRHM; sensitizing the judiciary and training of judicial personnel; and awareness generation activities. It is also proposed to amend the provisions of the Act to make its implementation more effectve.

AIDS control programme with private participation

1437. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National AIDS Control Organization has decided to encourage public-private partnership under the third phase of the National AIDS Control Programme to be launched in April, 2007;

(b) whether a National Steering Committee comprising the CH, the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India, NAS and Service Companies FICCI, the ILO and U.S. AIDS will be set up to identify mechanisms for strengthening linkages between the private and Government sectors; and

(c) if so, to what extent private sectors' inclusion to battle against AIDS has helped in controlling the AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Existing engagements with private sector and industry have resulted in many business houses across India signing workplace policies that address awareness, prevention and removing stigma and discrimination. Public Private Partnerships have been signed between NACO and Ballapur Industries and ACC separately for provision of ART to those affected by HIV in Chandrapur district in Maharashtra and Wada district in Karnataka.

Unused funds by the States

1438. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Budget has made an unprecedented hike of 21 per cent in health allocation but States lagging behind in social indices have spent only a fraction of Centre's allocation last year;